

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 26 with the following:

The interest thread detector 16 may detect formation of a communication interaction by detecting a visual cue, e.g. a gesture, a movement, etc., by one of one or more individuals in the rich media environments 12-14. A visual cue may pertain to another individual in the same rich media environment or may pertain to an individual in another rich media environment. For example, an individual in the rich media environment 12 may point to or approach another individual in the rich media environment 12 and the interest thread detector 16 in response creates an interest thread between those two individuals in the rich media environment 12. In another example, an individual in the rich media environment 12 may point to a visual display in the rich media environment 12 while an individual located in the rich media environment ~~[[13]]~~<sup>14</sup> is being rendered on the visual display and the interest thread detector 16 in response creates an interest thread between the individual the rich media environment 12 and the individual in the rich media environment ~~[[13]]~~<sup>14</sup>.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 5 with the following:

The processing resources 232 and 242 may include processors, memory, computer-readable storage media that contains a set of code for execution, database storage, etc. The processing resources 232 and 242 may include specialized hardware/software for performing machine vision functions, audio processing, audio/video data compression/decompression, etc. The processing resources 232 and 242 may be distributed among a set of hardware devices including the sensing and rendering components of the rich media environments 250-252. For example, the digital cameras 140-145, 150-159 may include on-board processing resources for generating a media stream by performing mpeg encoding. Similarly, the video displays 200, 210-212 may include processing resources for performing mpeg decoding.